

HONORARY MEMBERS

Miss M. R. Charlton
Dr. Harvey Cushing
Dr. W. W. Francis
Dr. George Dock
Mr. Wilfrid M. Voynich
Dr. V. C. Vaughan
Dr. W. W. Browning

The Committee on Revision of the By-Laws submitted its report and the By-Laws were extensively amended and revised. The important changes include the broadening of the Library Membership to include allied scientific libraries, reclassification of membership to establish a new class for library workers and the election of officers by a mail ballot.

MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 3RD, 1929

After the election of officers at New York in September, 1928 the Committee met and organized by the election of James F. Ballard as Chairman. All members of the Committee were present except Mr. J. C. Harding of Cleveland.

Miss Ella B. Lawrence was appointed Manager of the Exchange and it was decided to carry on the work on the same plan as was employed during the previous year. It was voted to continue the Membership Committee and to appoint the additional members requested by Miss Marshall. Mr. Ballard was appointed Chairman of the Publication Committee.

The affairs of the Association have been very satisfactory during the past year and the officers and the Chairmen of the various Committees will give you detailed reports of their activities.

During the year fifteen library members have been added to our lists. This is a most excellent showing and reflects on the good standing of the Association. Individual members, hereafter to be known as supporting members if the new classification is adopted, should be frankly told that aside from receiving the BULLETIN there are no other tangible benefits due from their membership but that they are supporting and fostering medical libraries in this Country.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

The new class of professional members for those actually engaged in library work should interest every staff member of every medical library. These members will receive the BULLETIN and have the pleasure of being closely affiliated with the Association.

EXCHANGE

Miss Lawrence took over the work from Miss Biethan and has proved a worthy successor. Nine lists have been issued during the year at a very small cost to the Association for the work accomplished. Unfortunately Miss Lawrence felt compelled to relinquish the work because of added duties in her library but through rearrangement of the work we are assured of her competent supervision for at least another year.

The Exchange is a vital part of the Association and must be maintained at any cost. In order to get the best results it should be under the same management over a period of years.

BULLETIN

During the year three numbers with a total of 132 pages have been published. The BULLETIN is in an experimental stage and the Editors have started three special departments, "The Librarian's Library", in which books of direct interest to the medical librarian will be reviewed. "Notes on Library Problems and Methods", edited by Miss Blake Been; and "News from the Libraries", edited by Miss Mary Louise Marshall. The Editorial page has been expanded and the Editors wish to thank those who contributed signed editorials. Three persons have been responsible for the four editorials in the three numbers. Thanks are also due to the members who have voluntarily sent in material for publication. There has never been a lack of papers or other matter which has gladdened the hearts of the Editors!

The January number was omitted and combined with April because of the cost of printing. The gross expense for the year was \$774.74 and the receipts and bills collectible \$207.85, leaving a net cost of \$569.89.

To help defray costs a limited amount of advertising has been printed for the first time in the BULLETIN proper.

The success of the BULLETIN depends on its members. They must supply the local news to give life and color to the publication.

Three complete sets have been sold and one order is unfilled. There is some demand for odd copies and short runs which cannot be filled until an inventory is made of the existing stock. The supply of numbers is now being brought together in Boston and outstanding inquiries will soon be answered.

BY-LAWS

For the past two years the Executive Committee has been considering the desirability of revising the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association. The Executive Committee has unanimously concurred with the Special Committee on By-Laws in presenting to you for consideration the proposed revision of the By-Laws which you will later have before you.

Your Chairman made a special trip from Louisville to St. Louis

to discuss the matter with Mrs. Hibbard, Chairman of the Committee on By-Laws. This Conference made possible the presentation of the document which you have had.

MEETING PLACE

In the last Annual Report of the Executive Committee your Chairman expressed his personal opinion that the Association should, if possible, hold its annual meeting in a place extending a formal invitation to the Association. When an invitation is formally extended the Association is then assured of adequate interest in its affairs, with consequent assurance of a successful meeting. The Association should not impose itself upon a Library or a community.

Your Chairman feels more strongly than ever on this matter and believes that the Executive Committee should be relieved of the responsibility of determining the place of meeting. A proposed amendment to the By-Laws placing this decision upon the Convention is to come before you later for consideration and it is hoped that it will be received favorably.

It is true that for the best interests of the Association the annual meetings should be held in all parts of the Country, but this year, because of the importance of the business to be presented at the Meeting, your Chairman and a majority of the Officers and Executive Committee believed that a central meeting place would be most desirable and for this reason accepted the invitation of the Cleveland Medical Library Association, rather than the invitation received from San Francisco and Portland, Oregon.

The importance of meeting at the same time and place as the American Medical Association has been over-exaggerated. There is not as much in common between the two organizations as we have been led to believe. If the Association is to meet with any other organization it should be the American Library Association. The Special Library Association does not meet with the business men, or the Association of Law Librarians with the lawyers or the American Library Association with educational organizations, so why should the Medical Library Association meet with doctors?

The two best meetings of recent years, Ann Arbor, 1927 and New York, 1929 have been held independently of the American Medical Association and much of their success has been due to the lack of counter-attractions.

The meetings should not be looked upon as a vacation but should be taken seriously and the programs should be made interesting to all medical librarians. Medical Libraries should recognize the importance of the Association and the value of the meetings to their librarians and include in their annual budgets expenses for sending their librarians to the meetings.

It is interesting to note that one library represented here today is so represented because an individual member impressed the Board of Trustees with the importance of the meeting.

You will be pleased to know that the Executive Committee already has invitations from three libraries for the 1930 meeting.

EXHIBIT

One of the features of the American Medical Association and the only one of particular interest to librarians has been the exhibit of new books. Bearing this in mind the Chairman of your Executive Committee ably assisted by Mr. J. L. Wilson of Jefferson Medical Library has arranged for a showing of the new medical books by the important publishers of the Country. Much thanks is due to Mr. J. C. Harding and his assistants and the Cleveland Medical Library Association for their splendid co-operation in putting on this Exhibit.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Authorization was given for the mimeographing and distribution of the resolutions on the size of reprints.

The National Board of Medical Examiners has agreed to give its official journal, "The Diplomat," to the medical libraries in the Association. There have been no changes in the officers during the year.

Your Chairman has made visits to the Treasurer in Chicago and the President in New York. He also visited Cleveland and Detroit in the interest of the 1929 Convention and made a special trip from Louisville to St. Louis to consult with the Chairman of the By-Laws Committee. On his travels he obtained large quantities of good duplicates for the Exchange and has located other large accumulations of good material. The special committees on the Revision of the By-Laws and on the Index-Medicus have been active and will make reports to the meeting. The German periodical situation has again received attention and Tulane University Medical Library has become interested and is endeavoring through a prominent German book dealer to approach the publishers on the question of the cost of their periodicals.

The finances of the Association are in excellent condition. So far as is known all bills have been paid and none are outstanding. During the absence of the Treasurer in Europe arrangements were made with the bank for the payments of bills against the Association. The question of the advisability of incorporating the Association has been raised and should be carefully considered in all its aspects.

During the year the Association has suffered an irreparable loss in the death of four of its members: Dr. F. J. Shepherd, Honorary President; Dr. L. W. Taylor, Past-President and Charter Member; Miss Jane Gray Rogers, Librarian of Tulane University Medical School; Dr. Walter A. Jayne, of Denver, long interested in the work of the Association.